AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A sheet feeder, comprising:

a sheet accommodating section configured to accommodate therein a stack of sheets;

a sheet pickup section configured to contact the stack of sheets and feed the sheets toward a feed path; and

sheet separator located downstream of the sheet pickup section, the sheet separator including a feed roller and a reverse roller,

wherein the reverse roller includes a sponge member having an outer periphery formed with a coating layer having a surface smoothed to such an extent as to have a gloss, and

wherein the coating layer has a mean surface roughness Ra satisfying the following formula:

$$0.09 \leq Ra \leq 0.11;$$

and a maximum height Ry, a ten-points mean roughness Rz and a maximum roughness Rmax that fall within the range of the following formulae:

$$0.46 \leq Ry \leq 0.60$$

$$0.39 \leq Rz \leq 0.80$$

$$13.20 \leq Rmax \leq 35.36.$$

2. (Original) The sheet feeder according to claim 1,

wherein the coating layer is formed by dipping the sponge member into a coating liquid.

3. (Original) The sheet feeder according to claim 1,

wherein the coating layer comprises urethane rubber.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The sheet feeder according to claim 1,

wherein the sheet pickup section comprises a roller member having a hollow portion therein.

6. (Original) An image reading apparatus, comprising:

a sheet feeder as recited in claim 1; and

an image reading section configured to read an image formed on each of the sheets fed by the sheet feeder.

7. (Original) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image reading apparatus as recited in claim 6; and

an image forming section configured to form an image based on image data read by the image reading apparatus.

8. (Previously presented) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a sheet feeder as recited in claim 1;

an image reading section configured to read an image formed on each of the sheets fed by the sheet feeder; and

an image forming section configured to form an image based on image data read by the image reading section.

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